

Drought Status and Outlook

Latest Drought Information Statement

November 11, 2021

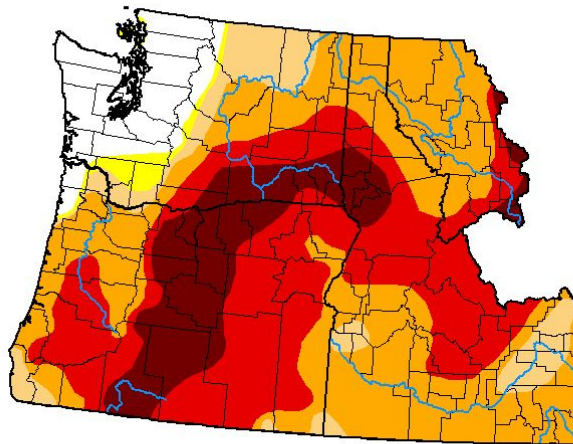
National Weather Service Spokane

Extreme to Exceptional Drought for the Inland NW



U.S. Drought Monitor Pacific Northwest DEWS

Drought conditions have seen slow improvements across the region. Extreme (D3) and exceptional (D4) drought has decreased across parts of eastern Washington and the Idaho Panhandle, although it still lingers across parts of the lower Columbia Basin, southeast Washington and adjacent areas of the Idaho Panhandle.



November 9, 2021
(Released Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	8.96	91.04	89.36	81.10	44.62	13.88
Last Week 11-02-2021	8.91	91.09	89.46	84.14	45.53	14.80
3 Months Ago 08-10-2021	0.00	100.00	93.99	84.02	58.42	24.76
Start of Calendar Year 12-29-2020	38.14	61.86	40.77	27.90	10.74	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-28-2021	0.00	100.00	93.35	84.83	57.49	24.06
One Year Ago 11-10-2020	28.68	71.32	42.27	29.20	15.39	0.00

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Curtis Riganti
National Drought Mitigation Center

<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



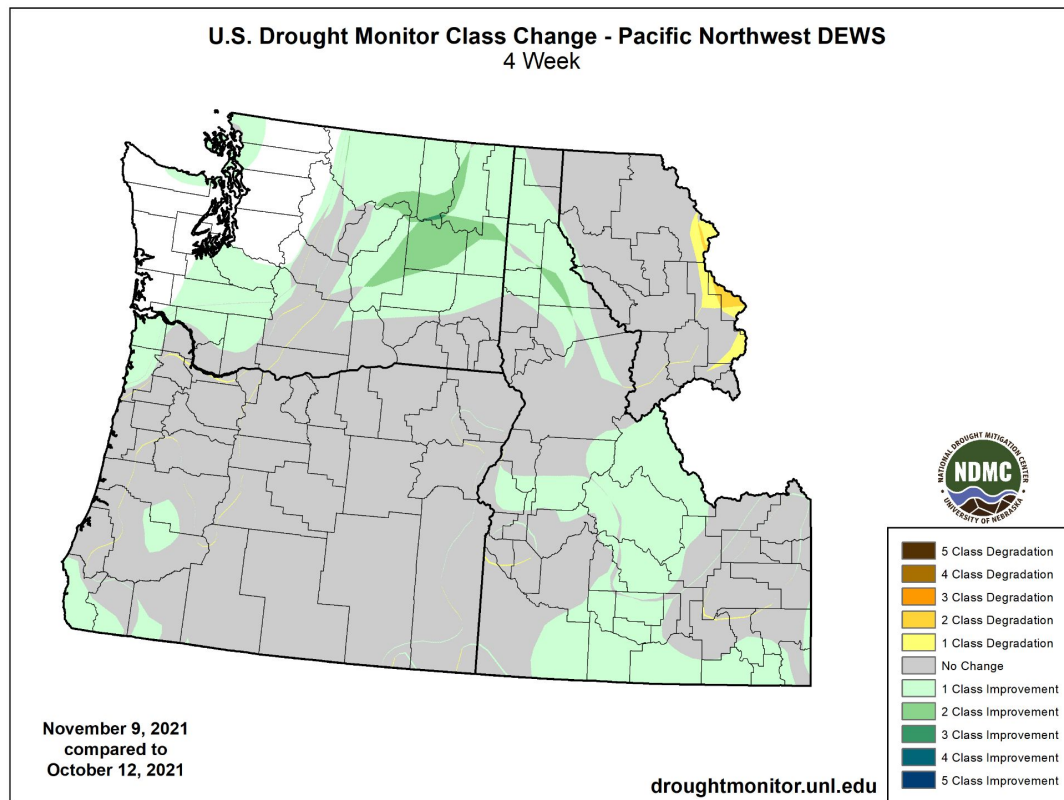
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

One Month Drought Change



Numerous rounds of light to moderate rainfall in September and October have helped decrease the drought conditions.

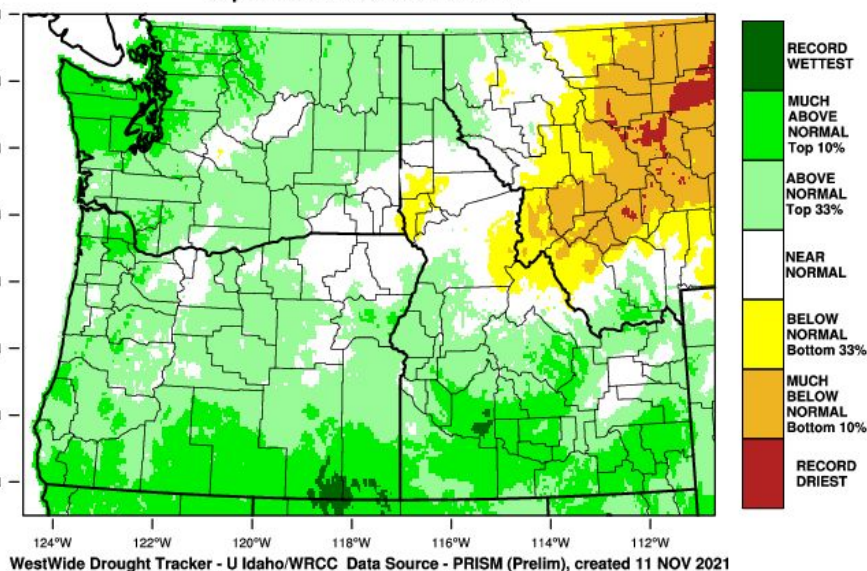
<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Maps/ChangeMaps.aspx>



Summer 2021 in Review



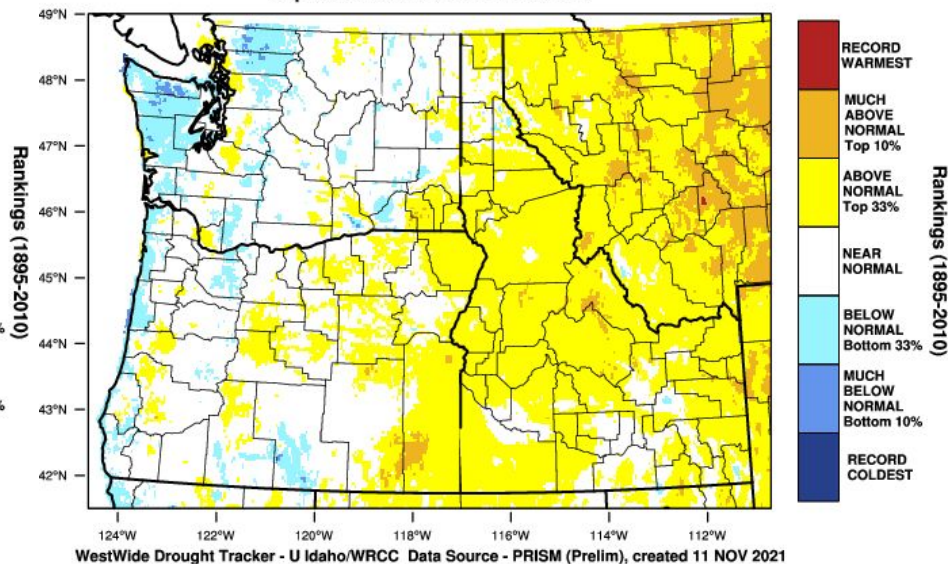
Pacific Northwest - Precipitation
September-October 2021 Percentile



WestWide Drought Tracker - U Idaho/WRCC Data Source - PRISM (Prelim), created 11 NOV 2021

Precipitation has been above normal for much of the Inland Northwest for September and October.

Pacific Northwest - Mean Temperature
September-October 2021 Percentile



WestWide Drought Tracker - U Idaho/WRCC Data Source - PRISM (Prelim), created 11 NOV 2021

Temperatures have been running near normal for the region, slightly cooler than normal near the Cascades and slightly warmer than normal for north Idaho.

<https://wrcc.dri.edu/wwdt/index.php>

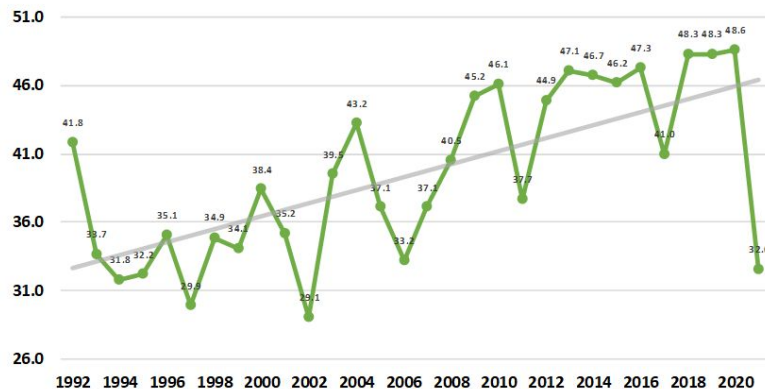
Drought Impacts - Agriculture



Other Spring Wheat Yield United States



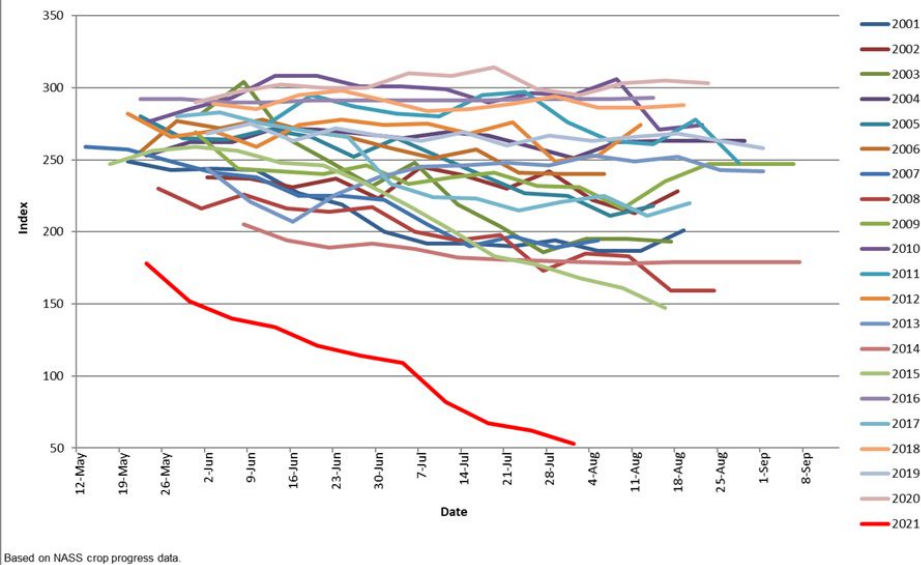
Bushels per Acre



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

September 30, 2021

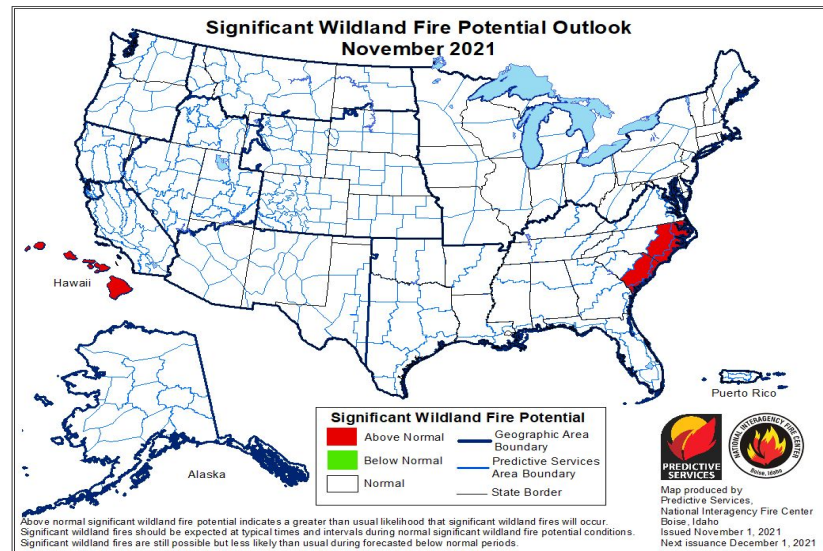
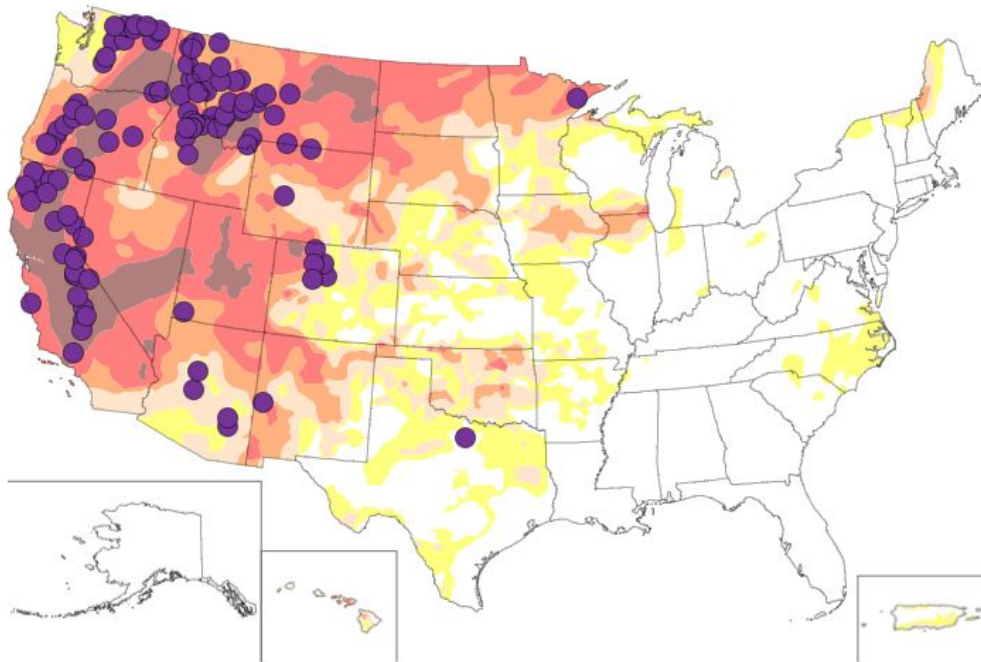
WA SPRING WHEAT Condition Index



Last summer, dryland agriculture was impacted with record low yields of winter wheat, spring wheat, barley and hay. Due to the autumn precipitation, the new winter wheat crop has been planted and the majority has emerged by the end of October.

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Charts_and_Maps/Field_Crops/swyld.php

Drought Impacts - Wildfires



Active Fire

U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): National Wildfire Coordinating Group, U.S. Drought Monitor
Updates Daily - 08/18/21

Drought.gov

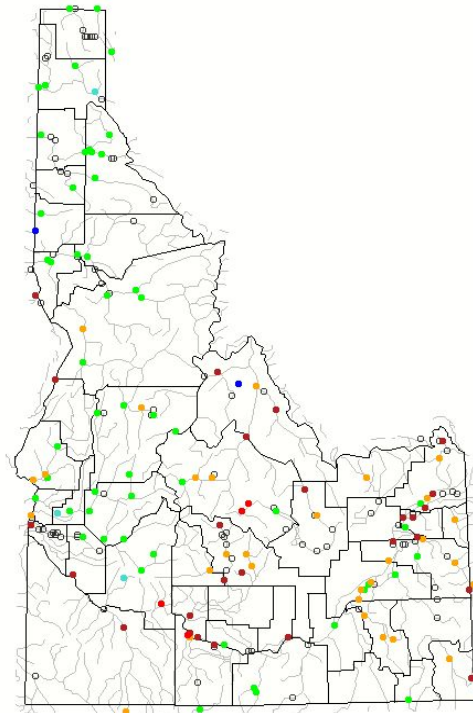
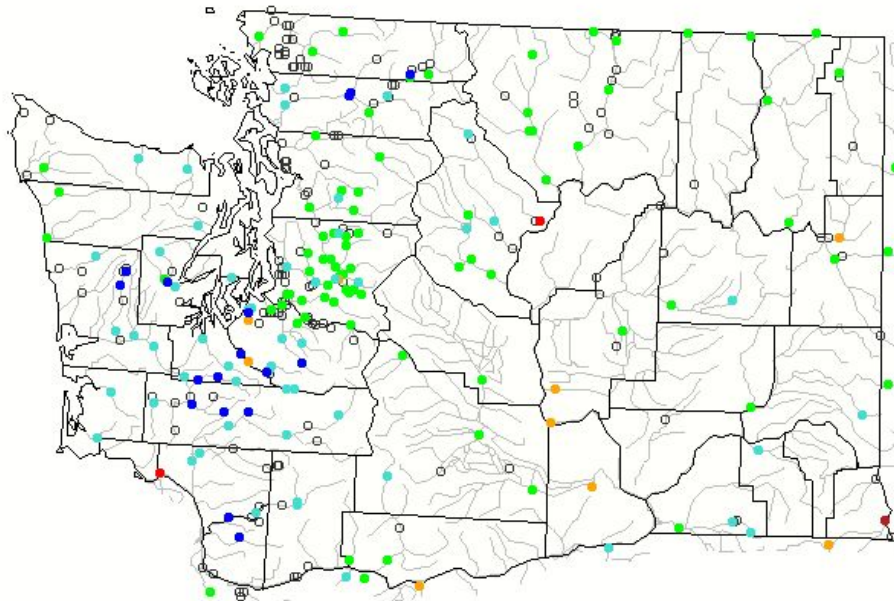
Last summer saw an active fire season due to several dry lightning events and breezy dry winds. Wildfires were reported across much of the region. The autumn rains and seasonal temperatures helped slow the activity on wildfires with a normal outlook for this fall. <https://www.drought.gov/topics/fire>

Drought Impacts - Streamflows



Thursday, November 11, 2021 12:30ET

Thursday, November 11, 2021 12:30ET



Since October, the autumn precipitation helped boost stream flows back to normal levels.

<https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/>

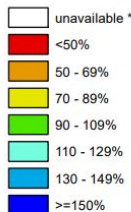
Drought Impacts - Mountain Snowpack



Washington SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal

Nov 11, 2021

Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) Basin-wide Percent of 1991-2020 Median



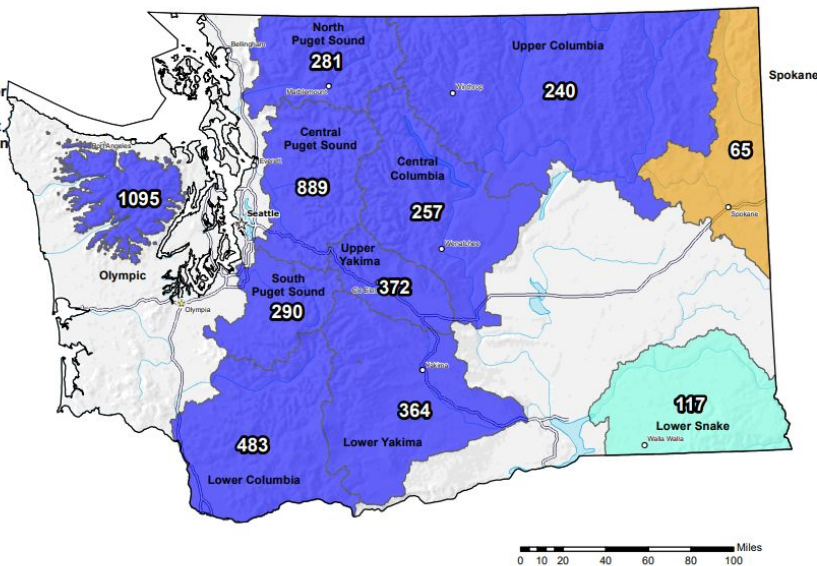
* Data unavailable at time of posting or measurement is not representative at this time of year

Provisional Data Subject to Revision



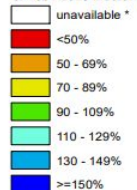
The snow water equivalent percent of normal represents the current snow water equivalent found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day. Data based on the first reading of the day (typically 00:00).

Prepared by:
USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center
Portland, Oregon
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/wcc/home/>



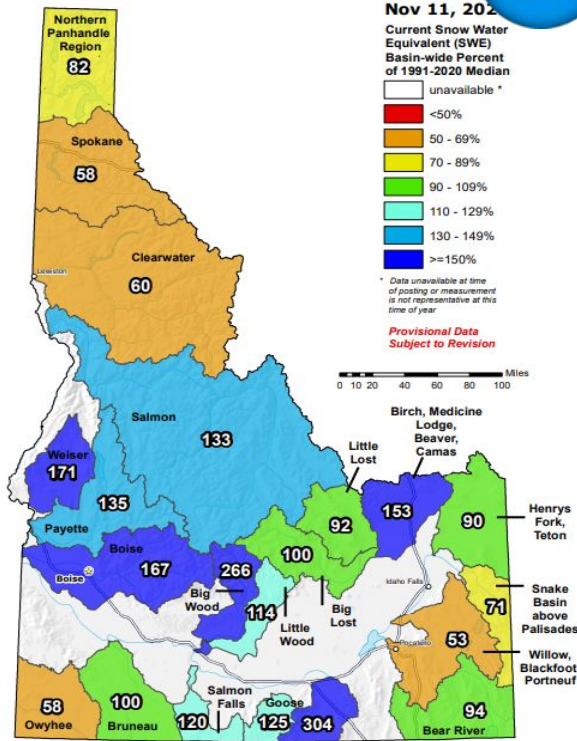
Nov 11, 2021

Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) Basin-wide Percent of 1991-2020 Median



* Data unavailable at time of posting or measurement is not representative at this time of year

Provisional Data Subject to Revision

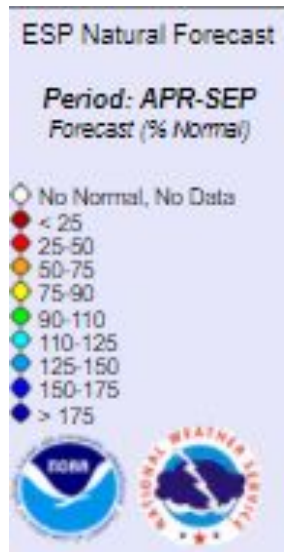


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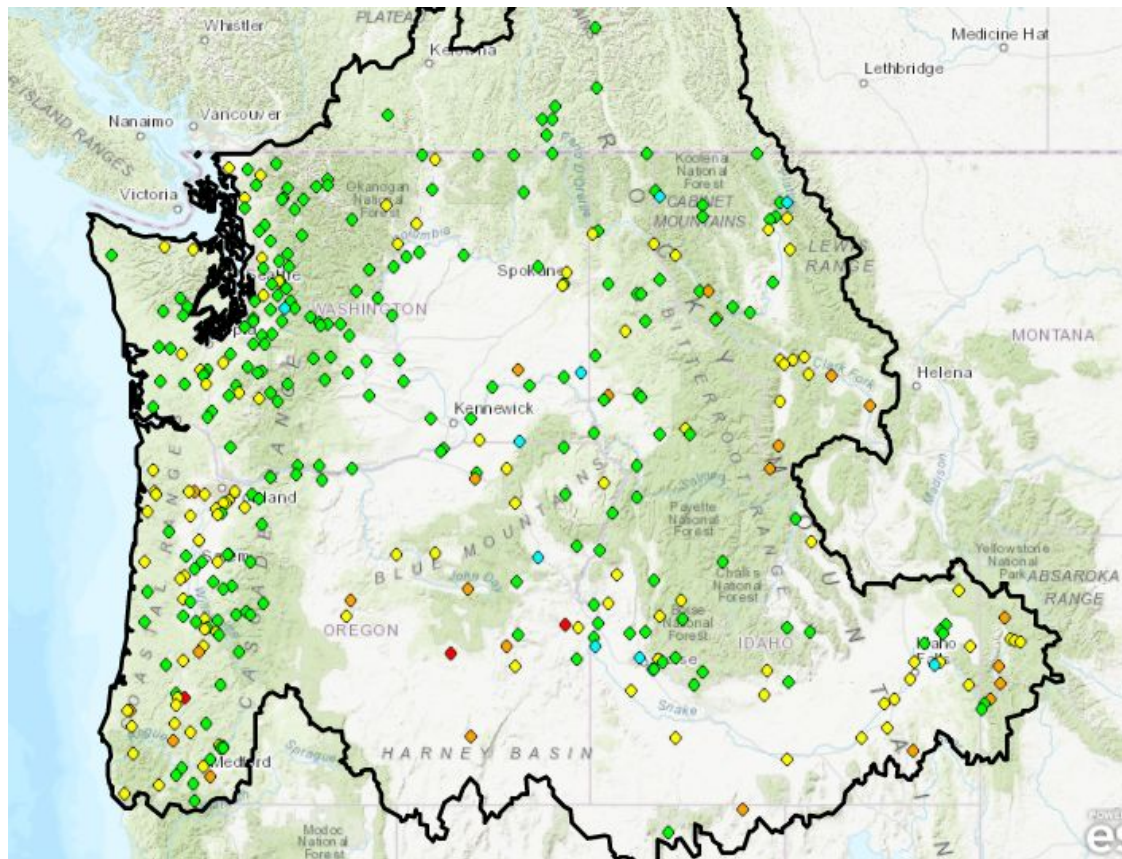
Mountain snowpack has started to increase especially across parts of the northern Cascades where levels are above normal for early November. Snowpack across the mountains of north Idaho has been near to slightly below normal. <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/wcc/home/>

NWRFC Water Supply Forecast



October 1st marked a new Water Year.
The updated water supply forecast looks
optimistic for the coming year.

<https://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/rfc/>

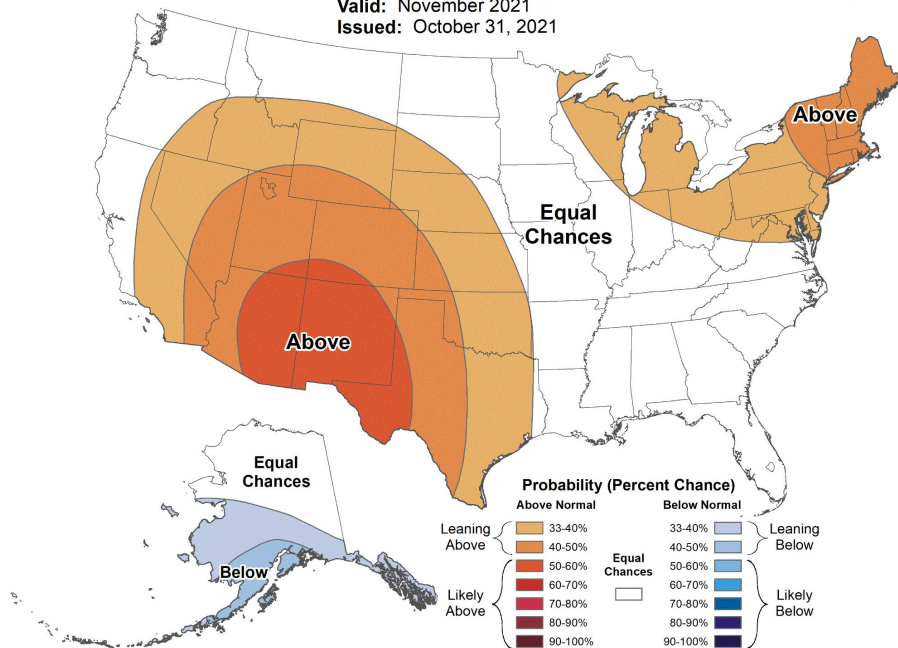


CPC One Month Outlook ~ November



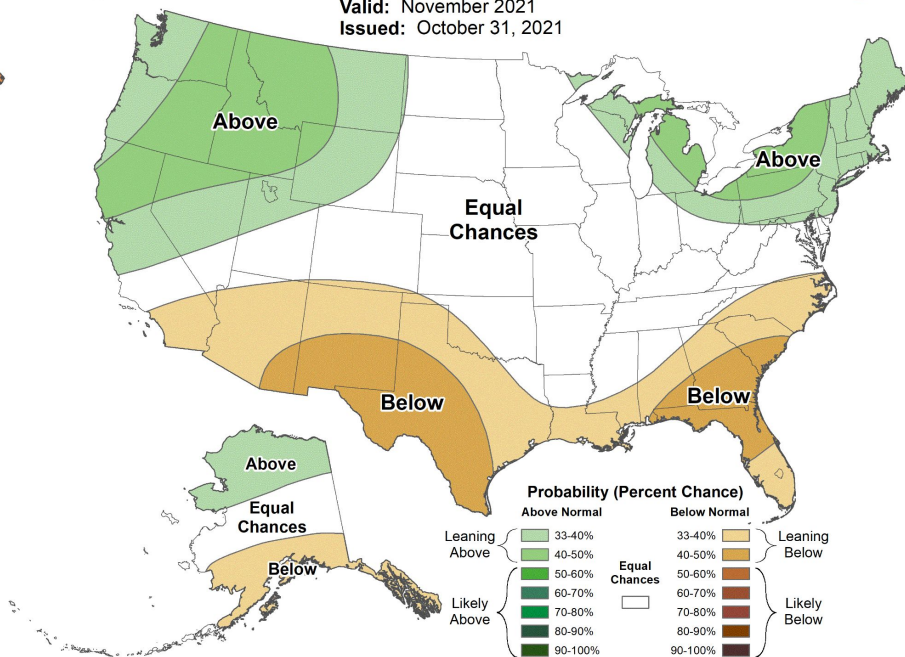
Monthly Temperature Outlook

Valid: November 2021
Issued: October 31, 2021



Monthly Precipitation Outlook

Valid: November 2021
Issued: October 31, 2021



The November outlook from the Climate Prediction Center favors increased odds of seasonal temperatures and above normal precipitation for the Inland Northwest. <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>

CPC Three Month Outlook ~ November to January

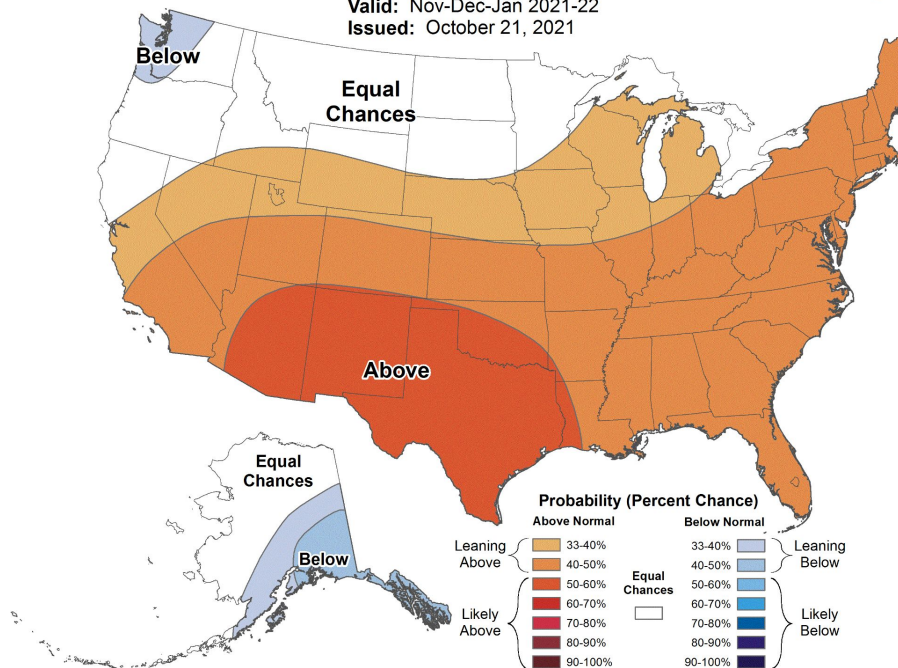


Seasonal Temperature Outlook



Valid: Nov-Dec-Jan 2021-22

Issued: October 21, 2021

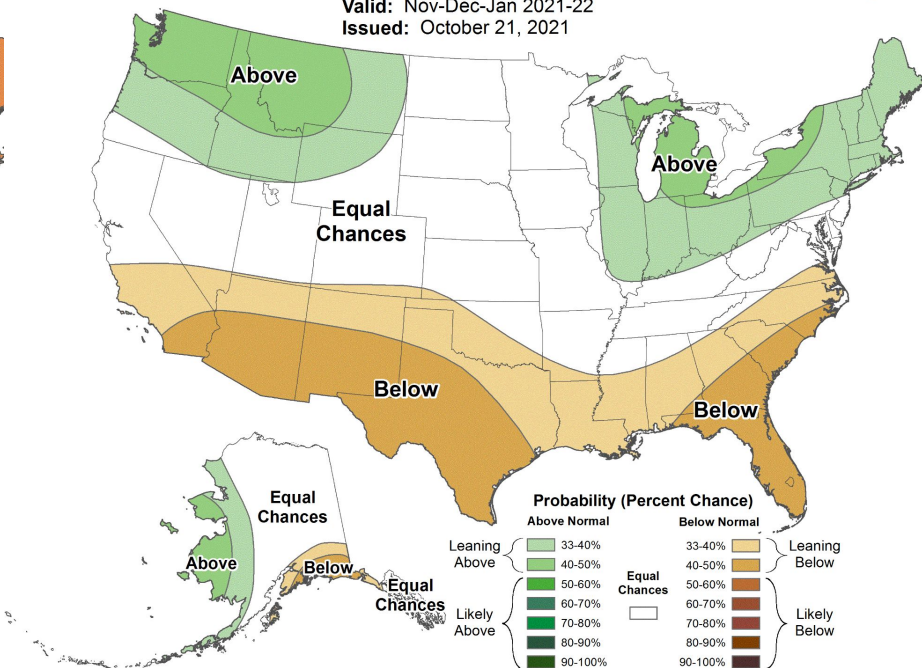


Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



Valid: Nov-Dec-Jan 2021-22

Issued: October 21, 2021



The three month outlook from the Climate Prediction Center for November through January 2022 leans toward equal chances of at, below or near normal temperature and above normal precipitation.

<https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>

CPC Three Month Outlook ~ December to February



Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: Dec-Jan-Feb 2021-22

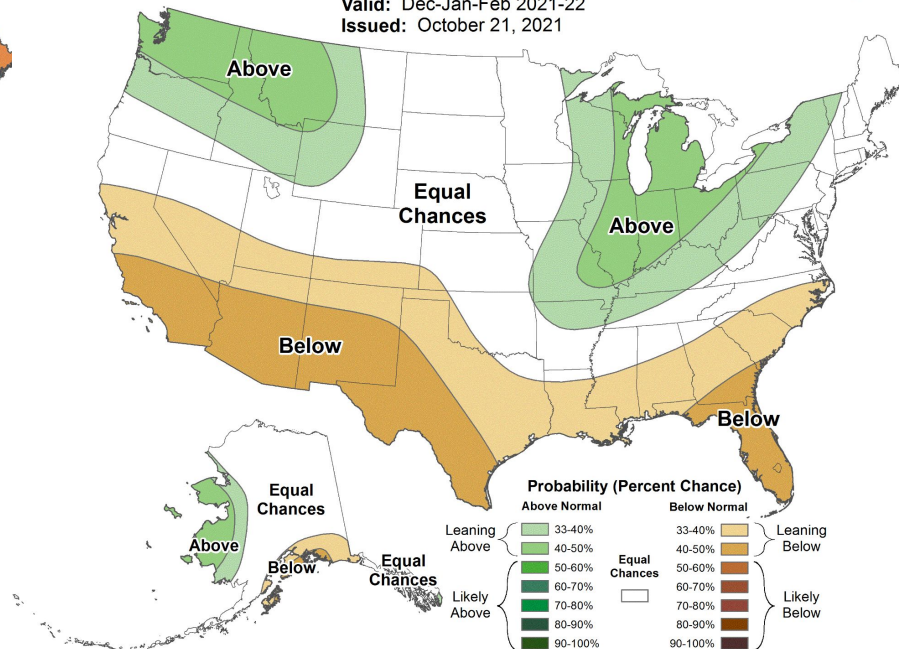
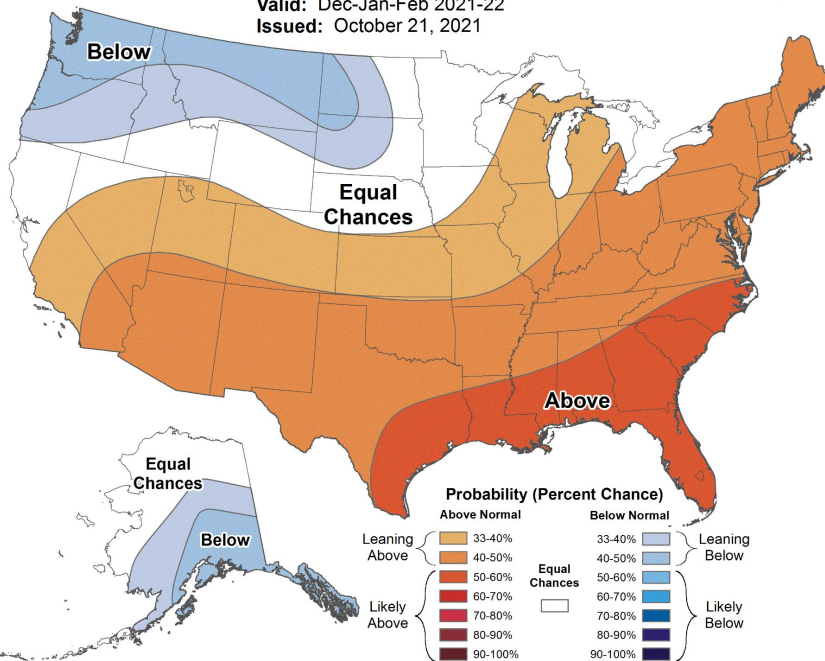
Issued: October 21, 2021



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Dec-Jan-Feb 2021-22

Issued: October 21, 2021



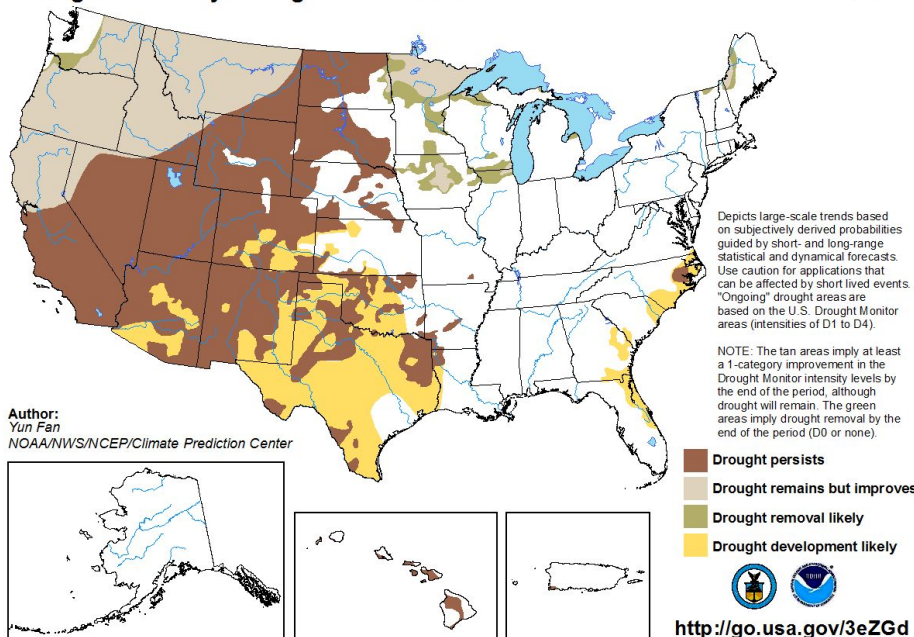
The three month outlook from the Climate Prediction Center for December to February 2022 leans toward below or near normal temperature and above normal precipitation. <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>

Monthly and Seasonal Drought Outlook



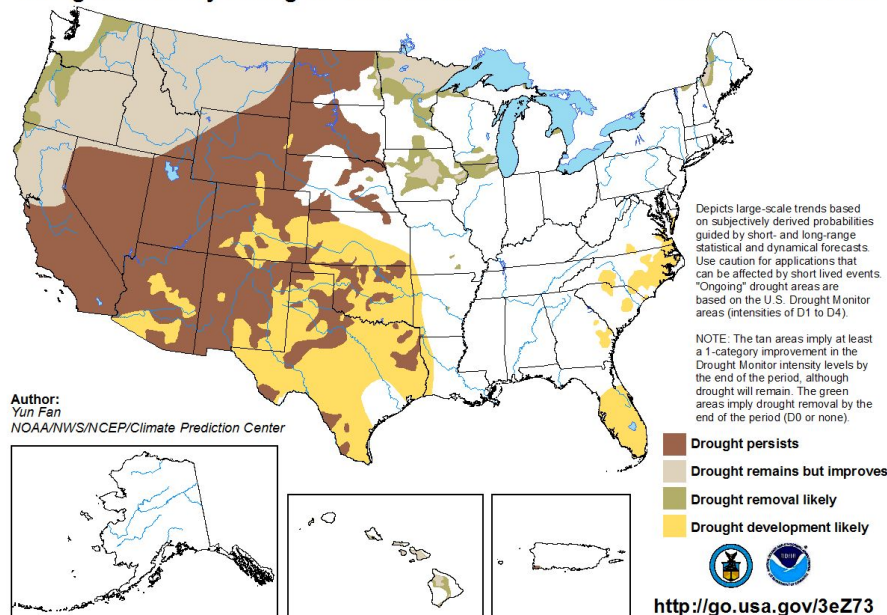
U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for November 2021
Released October 31, 2021



U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for October 21, 2021 - January 31, 2022
Released October 21, 2021




The Monthly Drought Outlook for November indicates that drought conditions will remain but show some improvements. The Seasonal Drought Outlook shows similar conditions, although some drought removal is possible across parts of central Washington in the coming months. . <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>

Drought Summary

- 
- Slow improvements have been seen in the decrease of drought across the Inland NW although some Extreme (D3) to Exceptional (D4) Drought remains.
 - The Seasonal Outlook favors seasonal temperatures and above normal precipitation through the next few months, trending cooler than normal by the end of the winter season. This favors improving drought conditions across the region.
 - Drought impacts have subsided since the summer, with the planting of winter wheat, stream flows returning to normal, wildfire season coming to an end, and the start of the mountain snowpack.
 - The water supply forecast for the 2022 Water Year looks optimistic across the region.
 - Please report any drought conditions or impacts to NWS Spokane at nws.spokane@noaa.gov or through the National Drought Mitigation Center at <https://droughtimpacts.unl.edu/>

Drought Related Web Sites



U.S. Drought Portal: www.drought.gov

US Drought Monitor: www.droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Western Region Climate Center: [/www.wrcc.dri.edu](http://www.wrcc.dri.edu)

Climate Prediction Center: www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

National Interagency Coordination Center: www.nifc.gov

USGS Streamflows: www.waterwatch.usgs.gov

NWS Water Supply Forecasts: www.nwrfc.noaa.gov

US Army Corps of Engineers: www.usace.army.mil

NRCS Water Supply Forecasts: www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov

Idaho Department of Water Resources: www.idwr.idaho.gov

Idaho Climate Office: www.uidaho.edu/extension/climate-services

Washington Department of Ecology: www.ecology.wa.gov

Washington Climate Office: www.climate.washington.edu

NWS Spokane: www.weather.gov/Spokane